

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 045782
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01
SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07
TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
NEA-10 /135 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OT/GCP:MBAAS
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STR - D COOPER

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R 222053Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PREFERENCES--REVIEW
OF GSP PROGRAM

REFS: (A) GENEVA 2026, (B) GENEVA 2420

1. FOLLOWING ARE OUR COMMENTS ON ISSUES RAISED REF A.
 2. REGARDING SPECIFIC QUESTIONS IN PARAGRAPH 2 REF A, WE BELIEVE COMMITTEE ON PREFERENCES SHOULD MEET ANNUALLY, AND NOT REPEAT NOT MORE FREQUENTLY. LENGTH OF MEETING WOULD DEPEND ON PROCEDURES FINALLY DEVELOPED, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT IF AN EFFICIENT SCHEDULE IS DEVELOPED ONE WEEK WOULD BE SUFFICIENT. WE DO BELIEVE THAT THE FORMAT COULD BE USE-
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FULLY CHANGED. CURRENT PRACTICE WHERE EACH BENEFICIARY IN EFFECT MAKES STATEMENT COVERING 5 TO 6 GSPS WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE RESPONDED TO BY VARIOUS DONORS IS CONFUSING AND NOT CONDUSIVE TO DIALOGUE. WE BELIEVE THAT A HALF DAY SHOULD BE SET ASIDE FOR EACH OF MAJOR GSPS (US, EEC, JAPAN). SIMILAR TIME SHOULD BE SET ASIDE FOR DISCUSSION OF SMALLER, SIMILAR GSPS IN GROUPS (SUCH AS FOR EXAMPLE EFTA, NORDICS

AND NON-MARKET ECONOMY COUNTRIES). WE HAVE NO PREFERENCES ON PUBLIC VS PRIVATE MEETINGS, BUT DEFINITELY BELIEVE THAT INDUSTRY AND TRADE UNION PARTICIPANTS SHOULD NOT REPEAT

NOT ATTEND.

3. REGARDING RULES OF ORIGIN MEETINGS, WE BELIEVE THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE CHANGED SINCE THEY ARE ESSENTIALLY TECHNICAL MEETINGS, NOT "POLITICAL" AS IS THE CASE WITH THE PREFERENCE MEETING.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT ABOVE CHANGE IN FORMAT WOULD LARGELY MEET CONCERNS OF G-77 AND REMOVE NECESSITY FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY FORMAL "AD HOC" CONSULTATIONS. SET PERIOD FOR EACH DONOR'S GSP WOULD TAKE CARE OF DETAILS OF THAT COUNTRY'S PROGRAM. OTHER AGENDA ITEMS DURING MEETING MIGHT DEAL WITH "LARGE ISSUES" MENTIONED PARAGRAPH 4 REF A. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS MODIFICATION OF EXISTING PROCEDURES WOULD GIVE G-77 EFFECTIVE INPUT INTO OUR PROGRAM. (FOR EXAMPLE, NEW PROCEDURES FOR US GSP ADOPTED LAST FALL HAVE SEVERAL FEATURES SUCH AS ANNUAL, INSTEAD OF SEMI-ANNUAL PRODUCT REVIEW, RESULTING FROM LDC CONCERNS EXPRESSED AT LAST PREFERENCES MEETING). AND AS MISSION CORRECTLY POINTED OUT, US HAS ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES FOR BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES TO MAKE REQUESTS FOR PRODUCT CHANGES AND TESTIFY AT PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PRODUCT CHANGES.

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5. WE WILL BE HAPPY TO MEET WITH UNCTAD REPS MENTIONED REF B, AND ARE CURRENTLY ARRANGING APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENTS, WHICH WE WILL COMMUNICATE WHEN AVAILABLE. POINT OF CONTACT IN WASHINGTON IS CHARLES MAST, EB/OT/GCP, TELEPHONE 632-1175. VANCE

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